531. [*Transferred to 16th December 1993.*]

Closure of non-viable branches of Nationalised Banks

532. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to close down the non-viable branches of the Nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that bank branches which have been chronically incurring losses and are unlikely to improve their financial position despite all efforts, are to be converted either into 'recovery' branches or closed down. The number of such branches will be around 100.

Visit of Represenatives of International credit rating organisation

533. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether representatives of various international credit rating organisations visited New Delhi during September this year; if so, details of the representatives alongwith their organisations who visited New Delhi; and

(b) what are the details of the assessments made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increased in the cost of living

534. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trend of inflation has been rising abnormally high in the recent past;

(b) whether the rising trend has increased the cost of living;

(c) whether Government have been failing to check it; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) (a) There has been a moderate rise inflation in recent weeks to 8.5 per cent rate which cannot be regarded as abnormal when compared to 16.3 per cent inflation rate in September 1991.

(b) Rise in inflation does cause the cost of living to rise as the same level of income can buy less goods and services;

(c) and (d) As a result of disinflationary policies of the government it was possible to bring down the inflation rate to 7 per cent by March 1993. Since August, 1993, there has been an inflationary undercurrent because of a number of reasons. These include; higher issue prices for public distribution system, higher minimum support price to farm producers for wheat, rice and sugarcane, prolonged dry spell in August causing apprehensions of short-fall in agricultural output in A.P. Gujarat and U.P., truckers' strike, and relaxation in the fiscal discipline.

Setting up New High Power TV Tranmitters

535. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new low/high power TV transmitters in the country particularly in Gujarat and Maharashtra during the 8th Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the amount allocated therefor;

(c) whether Government have selected the sites for setting up of these proposed TV transmitters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Transmitters of varying power are envisaged to be set up in the country during the VIII Plan. The requisite details in respect of the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra are given in Statement I and II respectively. A sum of Rs. 482.10 crores has been earmarked to meet expenditure on TV transmitter projects proposed to be set up during the VIII Plan.

(c) and (d) Selection of sites for TV projects in the country is an annual exercise. While some of the sites have already been taken over, action has been initiated for selection of suitable sites for the remaining TV projects which have been formally approved under Annual Plans 1992-93 and 1993-94.

Statement-I

State	Project	Availability of site
GUJARAT	*H.P.T.*	
	1. Bhuj	Available
	2. Vadodara	Finalised
	3. Surat	Finalised
	4. Palitana	To be identified
	L.P.T.	
	5. Khambat	Available
	6. Mahuva	Identified
	7. Nakhtarana	To be identified
	8. Morvi	Being identified
	9. Rapar	Identified
	10. Mangrol	Being identified
	11. Ider	Being identified
	12. Dedsu	To be identified
	13. Palitana	Available
	14. Rajula	Available
	15. Sanjali	Available
	16. Khambalia	To be identified
	17. Amod	To be identified
	18. Thagadia	To be identified
	19. Netrang	To be identified
	20. Devgadh Baria	To be identified

Statement-II

State	Project	Availability of Site
MAHARASHTRA	*H.P.T.*	
	1. Hathikhamba/Ratnagiri	Being identified
	2. Jalgaon/Akola	Being identified
	3. Chandrapur	To be identified
	L.P.T.	
	4. Akot	Available
	5. Hinganghat	Available
	6. Akluj	Available
	7. Kankauli	Identified
	8. Washim	Identified
	9. Chiplun	Being identified
	10. Umorga	Being identified
	11. Sangammner	Being identified
	12. Shirpur	To be identified
	13. Mehakar	To be identified
	14. Morshi	To be identified
	15. Wani	To be identified
	16. Deorukh	To be identified
	17. Chikaldhara	Being identified
	V.L.P.T.	
	18. Adyal Tekdi	To be identified
	19. Junnar	To be identified
	20. Khed	To be identified
	21. Karjat	To be identified
	22. Ragapur	To be identified
	23. Chikaali	To be identified

Assessment of Metro Channel Programmes

536. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of Metro Channel programmes of Doordarshan to find out the extent to which advertisers and viewers have been weaned away for other T.V. network programmes; and